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1046 U.S. PAT.
09/815898
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Inventor/Applicant: Brad A. Armstrong

Title: REMOTE CONTROLLER WITH ANALOG PRESSURE SENSOR(S)

REMARKS

Dear Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the filing of the new patent application having the above title. The present application is a continuation of my earlier filed U.S. Patent Application 09/148,806 which will issue as a U.S. Patent 6,208,271 on March 27, 2001.

Please see the prior art of record in the file of my "parent" or earlier filed U.S. Patent Application 09/148,806, as the references are all at least somewhat related to the present invention and should be reviewed for materiality.

It is also pointed out that I believe a prior art "game controller" having at least one depressible button to drive a gear and rotate a rotary potentiometer was once on the market. The gear drive rotary potentiometer creates an analog signal change based on positional change, NOT pressure changes. This rotary drive push button controller should be considered as prior art even though I have not personally seen it and have only heard that it once existed in the market place. While I don't believe this game controller with gear drive potentiometer is all that related to the present invention, I want to mention it in the interest of the ensuring a positively full disclosure. This game controller with gear drive potentiometer is described in the prior art of record in my U.S. Patent 6,102,802 issued Aug. 15, 2000 and titled GAME CONTROLLER WITH ANALOG PRESSURE SENSOR(S).

Also, as described one or more times in my U.S. Patent Application 09/148,806 file, I am aware of one or more models of pointer control devices in the form of hand supported computer control devices, sometimes referred to as remote control mice or remote mice, and apparently made by Interlink Electronics, Inc. of Camarillo, CA, USA. and for sale at least on the Internet site of <http://www.cdw.com> at least in Sept. 1998. See the herewith included print-outs of the site areas showing the two computer control mice printed in Sept of 1998. The "cdw site in Sept. 1998" described a 2-button remote mouse titled RemotePoint remote-control mouse, and a cordless, hand-held mouse having the same title as the 2-button above mentioned mouse, and both made by Interlink Electronics. These two computer mouse cursor control devices by Interlink are believed to include a four-way pressure sensitive joystick referred to in the site article as a thumb "pointing button" for "seamless 360-degree cursor control" of a cursor or pointer on a computer screen. These pointing devices for computers by Interlink Electronics are considered relevant to the present invention, but are not considered material to patentability at least because they do not operate televisions, cable boxes, satellite boxes, VCRs, DVDs and like accessories associated with televisions. Furthermore the computer mouse devices of Interlink do not effect "function-controls" such as channel scrolling or tuning and with variable speed thereof, nor are they associated with video speed controls. Additionally, the computer mouse devices by Interlink are not associated with video guide controls such as are commonly used in satellite TV systems such as DSS, PrimeStar, DISH TV, and set-top boxes such as REPLAY TV and TIVO and the like. The computer mouse devices of Interlink are not anticipated to be useful in or with function-controls related to channel tuning and or video speed control as taught in the instant application. Additional information on the computer mouse devices of Interlink may be present in the file of my earlier filed U.S. Application 09/148,806.

I also wish it to be known that I have assigned the instant invention / application to a small business entity named ANASCAPE, a limited partnership. Prior to ANASCAPE entering into the Agreement, ANASCAPE had a Patent Law firm perform or have performed additional searching of the prior art. It is not known by myself as to what fields or even what specifically was the target of the search, however, the search seems to have been performed on a database called Questel-Orbit QWEB, and appears to have produced 24 pages of printed information mostly related to various analog sensors. While I do not believe the search discloses prior art that is material to the patentability of the present invention as claimed, I am nevertheless submitting the search results in the interest of the fullest possible disclosure before the PTO. True copies of all 24 pages of the Questel-Orbit QWEB search results are provided herewith, identified by the above specified database name being printed at the top left of each page as well as the page number to the right. I have reviewed the information of the 24 pages and find nothing that is believed to materially effect the patentability of the instant invention. Please review the herewith included 24 pages of the "Questel-Orbit" search results.

My U.S. Patent Application 09/148,806 will issue as a U.S. Patent 6,208,271 on March 27, 2001. Application 09/148,806 and the resulting patent includes a terminal disclaimer regarding my earlier issued U.S. Patent 6,102,802 issued Aug. 15, 2000 and titled GAME CONTROLLER WITH ANALOG PRESSURE SENSOR(S). Please review all of the prior art of record in the file of my U.S. Patent 6,102,802, as is it somewhat related or possibly of interest or materiality. Also note therein the O'Mara et al U.S. Patent 5,510,812 and Rutledge et al U.S. Patent 5,764,219, as they may be more related to the present invention.

In addition to my U.S. Patent 6,102,802 titled GAME CONTROLLER WITH ANALOG PRESSURE SENSOR(S), I have five other U.S. Patents having references of record in the files. These five Patents are:

1) U.S. Patent 5,999,084 issued Dec. 7, 1999 titled VARIABLE-CONDUCTANCE SENSOR. There is one or more pending U.S. continuation or continuation-in-part applications on this patent. Please review the references of this file for materiality.

2) U.S. Patent No. 6,135,886 titled VARIABLE-CONDUCTANCE SENSOR WITH ELASTOMERIC DOME-CAP. Please review the references of this file for materiality. There is one or more pending U.S. continuation or continuation-in-part applications on this patent.

3) U.S. Patent 6,198,473 issued on March 6, 2001 titled COMPUTER MOUSE WITH ENHANCED CONTROL BUTTONS. Please review the references of this file for materiality. There is one or more pending U.S. continuation or continuation-in-part applications on this patent.

4) U.S. Patent 5,589,828 issued Dec. 31, 1996 titled 3D JOYSTICK WITH TACTILE FEEDBACK. Please review the references of this file for materiality. There is one or more pending U.S. continuation or continuation-in-part applications on this patent.

5) U.S. Patent 5,565,891 issued Oct. 15, 1996 titled SIX DEGREES OF FREEDOM GRAPHICS CONTROLLER. Please review the references of this file for materiality.

Please review the prior art or references of record in all of the files of my above listed six U.S. Patents. I have reviewed the prior art thereof and believe the present invention patentable, however a review of the prior art by the U.S. Patent Office / Examiner is requested and would be deeply appreciated. The reviewing of all of the references / prior art is requested to be made of record in the instant file. At any time should the Examiner wish a copy of any prior art document(s) / references, or patents I have herein mentioned specifically or indirectly by way of describing the Patent file in which the references are present, please contact me and I will promptly respond.

Additionally, I have many potentially related pending U.S. Non-Provisional patent applications and PCT applications which can be located and reviewed by the PTO if desired. A search of the PTO records pertaining to pending applications under Inventor, Armstrong, Brad should provide a list of these pending applications. Again, at any time should the Examiner wish a copy of any prior art document(s) or a list of my co-pending applications or a copy of one of my patents, please contact me and I will promptly respond.

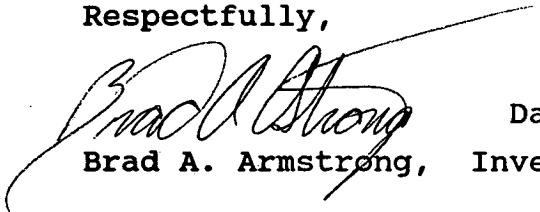
The new claims of the instant invention may at least in part read upon the allowed claims of the parent application, and it is requested that the Patent Office assist in identifying when a possible Double patenting situation exists between the instant application and any of my many issued patents and currently pending U.S. applications.

Furthermore, the specific mentioning of a reference or disclosure herein is not an admission the reference or disclosure is "prior" art to the present invention, or that it is material to the patentability of the invention. This Information Disclosure Statement along with the prior art discussion in the present application specification is intended to meet and exceed the requirements of full disclosure in candor and good faith. Any material disclosure(s) "if any exist" which are present in my records and files which I have not herein directed to the attention of the Patent Office by specific reference to or location of, is a fully unintentional oversight, and "if" existing and later discovered by myself, it (the located reference) will be sent to the Office in another Information Disclosure Statement filed as part of a continuing and ongoing effort to meet all requirements of candor and good faith in dealing with the U.S. Patent Office.

I believe the present claimed invention is patentable over the nearest prior art and reasonable combination of prior art. I also believe the present invention is patentable over the inventions of my above mentioned co-pending applications, but respectfully request the issues pertaining to Double Patenting be carefully considered by the PTO Examiners, as I want everything to be proper when my applications issue as U.S. Patents. Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully,

 Date: 3/22/01
Brad A. Armstrong, Inventor / Applicant